

MARCH 2007
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Highway Patrol Division
Major Tony Almaraz

Overview

The Northern Command showed significant overall activity during the month of March 2007. Total crashes showed a reduction of 19.6% compared to last year's month depiction. Most noticeable was the reduction in property and injury crashes throughout the Northern Command. No identifiable trends were noted. As indicated and observed over the past few months, the weather within the region has been unseasonably dry. A snapshot analysis would hypothesize that this would be a contributing factor.

As for field activity, the Northern Command sworn personnel should be proud of the impressive results. Almost every category of enforcement showed a significant increase. DUI prior to crash and speed enforcement were of two that were most noticeable. The proactive approach to these areas could certainly be attributed to the decrease in traffic collisions this month. Additionally, ever since the Office of Traffic Safety campaign for speed enforcement kicked off, the enforcement numbers have followed. With the upcoming safety campaign that NDOT has presented, we are on course for assisting in those goals.

Commercial enforcement within the Northern Command indicates some decreases in activity, however, many of those numbers can be attributed to 27% of the staff being assigned to assist the Training Division during this month. Most noticeable is the CVSP goals and objectives that were set for 2006/2007, that have been exceeded for the 6-month mark. Commercial enforcement continues to support and assist the urban traffic section with calls for service despite the lack of staffing in both sections.

The Northern Command, Fernley/Fallon District, again has shown remarkable numbers in field activity. The rural district reported a record 1884 pieces of activity coupled with a 51.3% reduction in traffic crashes. These troopers and supervisory staff are certainly dedicated to continuing safety and education within their district and should be applauded for a job well done.

Overall, the men and women of the Northern Command should be proud of their efforts to step up and make a difference within their districts. Even though low staffed, the personnel know what it takes to affect change with the motoring public within each office. The Northern Command continues to provide excellence and professionalism within the communities.

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NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

| | Mar 07 | | Mar 06 | % Change | | Feb 06 | % Change |
|--|--------|--|--------|----------|--|--------|----------|
| Total Crashes | 324 | | 403 | -19.6% | | 294 | 10.2% |
| Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles] | 209 | | 273 | -23.4% | | 188 | 11.2% |
| Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles] | 114 | | 130 | -12.3% | | 105 | 8.6% |
| Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles] | 1 | | 0 | 100.0% | | 1 | 0.0% |
| DUI Crashes [DUI charged] | 15 | | 19 | -21.1% | | 18 | -16.7% |
| Total persons killed in fatal crashes | 1 | | 0 | 100.0% | | 1 | 0.0% |
| Total drivers killed without seatbelts | 1 | | 0 | 100.0% | | 0 | 100.0% |
| Total passengers killed without seatbelts | 0 | | 0 | 0.0% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total drivers killed with seatbelts | 0 | | 0 | 0.0% | | 1 | -100.0% |
| Total passengers killed with seatbelts | 0 | | 0 | 0.0% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable | 0 | | 0 | 0.0% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total number of commercial vehicle crashes | 21 | | 23 | -8.7% | | 18 | 16.7% |
| Property crashes involving commercial vehicles | 15 | | 16 | -6.3% | | 13 | 15.4% |
| Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle | 6 | | 7 | -14.3% | | 5 | 20.0% |
| Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle | 0 | | 0 | 0.0% | | 0 | 0.0% |

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.3%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.6%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 100%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 6.5%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

The Northern Command reduced total crashes by 19.6% when compared to the same period last year. Property crashes were reduced by 23.4% and Injury crashes by 12.3%. We did have 1 Fatal crash compared to none last year. Crashes did increase when compared to last month. A complete analysis of locations and times did not reveal any trends or reasons for the increase.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

| | Mar 07 | | Mar 06 | % Change | | Feb 06 | % Change |
|---|--------|--|--------|----------|--|--------|----------|
| DUI arrests from crashes ** | 15 | | 19 | -21.1% | | 18 | -16.7% |
| DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ** | 144 | | 122 | 18.0% | | 102 | 41.2% |
| Other Arrests | 695 | | 505 | 37.6% | | 544 | 27.8% |
| Total persons arrested (DUI included) ** | 299 | | 241 | 24.1% | | 229 | 30.6% |
| Speed violations | 2654 | | 2011 | 32.0% | | 1813 | 46.4% |
| Hazardous moving violations | 798 | | 801 | -0.4% | | 619 | 28.9% |
| Occupant restraint violations * | 386 | | 403 | -4.2% | | 295 | 30.8% |
| Total violations [above violations included] | 6810 | | 5877 | 15.9% | | 5028 | 35.4% |
| Commercial Enforcement | | | | | | | |
| Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests | 9 | | 68 | -86.8% | | 13 | -30.8% |
| Other traffic violations - citations/arrests | 17 | | 80 | -78.8% | | 15 | 13.3% |
| Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6] | 521 | | 840 | -38.0% | | 444 | 17.3% |
| Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only | 0 | | 3 | -100.0% | | 1 | -100.0% |
| Total safety violations -- citation | 184 | | 398 | -53.8% | | 133 | 38.3% |
| Total safety violations -- repair order | 1667 | | 2610 | -36.1% | | 1359 | 22.7% |
| Total vehicles placed "Out of Service" | 74 | | 111 | -33.3% | | 0 | 7400.0% |
| Total drivers placed "Out of Service" | 67 | | 66 | 1.5% | | 0 | 6700.0% |
| Total school buses inspected | 345 | | 121 | 185.1% | | 77 | 348.1% |
| Total school buses placed "Out of Service" | 34 | | 24 | 41.7% | | 0 | 3400.0% |
| Total trucks weighed | 1076 | | 262 | 310.7% | | 66 | 1530.3% |
| Total overweight citations | 17 | | 94 | -81.9% | | 9 | 88.9% |
| Total dyed fuel inspections | 249 | | 383 | -35.0% | | 164 | 51.8% |
| Total dyed fuel citations | 4 | | 1 | 300.0% | | 0 | 400.0% |

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Field enforcement efforts were very strong this month. There were double-digit gains in every traffic enforcement category compared to last month. DUI crashes were reduced by 16.7%, as DUI arrests prior to crash increased by 41.2%. There were slight decreases in Occupant restraint and Hazardous moving violations when compared to the same period last year.

Commercial enforcement efforts also remain strong. The Commercial Section is well on its way to obtain all goals outlined in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan. School bus inspections were targeted this month as students enjoyed their spring break.

RENO URBAN TRAFFIC

The Reno Urban area remains understaffed with 31 out of 39 trooper positions staffed. One of the vacancies is being held by a trooper on military active duty and another was vacated when a trooper was appointed as an Acting Sergeant when Sergeant Robert Conti retired. Two of the vacancies should be filled in April with tentative reporting dates for 2 troopers. The urban area remains on 5 X 8 scheduling due to the shortage.

For the first time in five month's the Reno area showed an increase in traffic crashes. There were 171 total crashes this month compared to 147 crashes in February. However, crashes were up by more than 47% over the same period last year. The only identifiable trend is a small increase in the number of Commercial Vehicle crashes. The urban area handled 11 commercial vehicle crashes during March of this year, compared to 7 during the same period last year and 8 last month.

Total enforcement activity was outstanding this month with huge gains in every category. Total enforcement activity this month increased to 3123 total violations compared to 2044 last month, or 52.8%. This was also a 174.4% gain over the same period last year. There were a total of 102 DUI arrests this month compared to 67 last month, for a 57% increase. This was also a 155% increase over the same period last year.

Speed violations were the highest increased category with 856 violations this month. This is compared to 441 last month, which is more than a 94% increase, and a very large 239% increase over the same period last year. The second highest category was hazardous moving violations, which showed more than a 60% increase over last month and a staggering 145% over the same period last month.

All Urban Troopers should be commended for outstanding enforcement efforts. This is remarkable when you factor in the 16% increase in traffic crashes from last month and 47% increase over last year.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

For the month of March, the Carson/Tahoe/Minden District showed a decrease in almost all the areas of accidents compared to both last month and last year. The only exception is Property Crashes compared to last month, which has increased, by 1.4% or one (1) accident.

The CTM District handled one (1) injury accident for the Carson City Sheriff's Office due to the complexity of the accident. Additionally, CTM Dayshift handled two (2) pedestrian accidents, one of which occurred in the Dayton area and the second was in Douglas County involving a high school student. S.I.R.T. assisted CTM District on the Douglas County accident. The CTM District reported no fatalities during the month of March.

Total violations, Speed violations, Hazardous Moving Violations, and Occupant Restraint violations were down 19.2%, 4.2% and .07% respectively compared to last year. In addition, Total Persons Arrested and Other Arrest's were down compared to last month on average of 8%. All other areas of enforcement increased on average of 19%.

Day shift did not conduct directed enforcement or utilize the aircraft during the month of March. However, Swing Shift conducted directed enforcement on Beat 8.

FERNLEY/FALLON

For the month of March, the men and women of the Fernley Fallon District raised the bar in their enforcement efforts. This month's Safestat report continues to support the concept that proactive enforcement reduces crashes. This month's data also reports a record 1884 total violations issued, and a 51.3% reduction in crashes, thereby reducing the carnage associated from motor vehicle crashes.

The Fernley/Fallon District had a 51.3% decrease in total crashes compared to last year. All crash data categories report a reduction when compared to last year. Property damage crashes decreased 50.9%, injury crashes decreased 52.4%, and there were no fatal crashes to report. These impressive statistics are partially due to better weather and road conditions this year, but more importantly, they are the result of a continued strong work ethic and increased field enforcement efforts by area personnel.

Setting a new single month field enforcement record of 1884 total violations, area troopers and sergeants increased the field enforcement total violations by 40.5% compared to last year, and increased 25.9% compared to the already high stats from February.

These stats were accomplished in a month when the Fernley substation went through a remodel. This required a few of the area officers' assistance, which pulled them from the road for several days. The Fernley area still reported a healthy 37.2% increased in enforcement compared to last year. Not to be outdone, The Fallon area also reported an impressive 62.5% increase in enforcement compared to last year. This increase in enforcement equates to a field enforcement ratio of 104.7 violations issued per officer for the entire District. Again, these are outstanding numbers especially given the fact that total work hours decreased by 11.6%.

Area sergeants continue to reduce overtime. For the month of March, overtime was again reduced by 74.5% compared to last year and 13% compared to last month.

The Fernley/Fallon area sergeants and troopers are to be commended for their pursuit of the division's goals and objectives. Area officers have clearly demonstrated again this month a strong work ethic, as they continue to work toward the Highway Patrol's mission. This month's stats are a true testament to the personal commitment to the citizens and visitors of the State of Nevada, in maintaining a safe passage on the State's highway system.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

The Commercial Enforcement section currently has 22 assigned personnel. During the month of March, commercial staffing level had 2 vacant positions. One trooper was assigned to help re-write the current Division accident investigation lesson plan. Along with the re-write, this trooper will assist in the instruction of the upcoming academy classes throughout the state. We do not expect him back for several months.

The Commercial Section currently has two personnel who are not North American Standard; (NAS) trained or certified, and thus are unable to complete our required commercial vehicles inspections. The commercial section also had one additional person out on Workman's Compensation and working light duty. Even though our staffing levels show we have only two vacancies, we are currently still five working personnel down from being fully staffed.

In March, the Northern Command sent one instructor to Las Vegas to help teach NAS "A" class and another instructor to Elko to teach General Hazardous Material. In addition to the instructor, we also sent 3 additional personnel to Elko to become certified in Haz-Mat.

In March, the training category accounted for approximately 27.2% of the Northern Command Enforcement section's total work hours worked. Also in March, the commercial Lieutenant attended the national CVSP/CVSA meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

March is the six-month of the 2006-2007 Federal Fiscal Year, and the last month of the second federal quarter. The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement section exceeded most of its goals and objectives set forth in the 2006-2007 Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). The Northern Command continues to exceed most of their goals and is only short of meeting two goals. They are one Level 1 Motor Coach inspection and seven Level II/III Haz-Mat inspections.

In March, the Northern Command, Commercial Enforcement Section handled a total of three crashes; one property damage crash and two injury crashes. No commercial motor vehicle (CMV) was involved in any of these injury crashes.

The commercial section also assisted the traffic division with 24 crashes. Out of these 24 crashes, ten involved commercial motor vehicles.

INTERAGENCY CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT (ICE) TEAM

This is the ninth month of statistics reporting for the DPS Northern Command ICE Team as it has just become functional officially July 1st, 2006. There are no comparison statistics for prior annual periods.

We handled 1 Property Damage Crash this month.

This month our officers spent more time in the field than the previous 2 months. As a result, field activity showed improvements in both the enforcement and networking arenas. We assisted P & P with the search of a house and 2 vehicles and were able to provide assistance to a trooper in the seizure of 888 illegal DVD movies and 105 CD music discs.

Field enforcement activity included:

- 1 stop resulting in the seizure of 25,095 grams (55 lbs) marijuana
- 2 stops resulting in the seizure of 15 and 37 grams, respectively, of marijuana.
- 1 stop resulted in the deportation of 11 illegal persons, a stolen vehicle recovery and 1 gram of cocaine seized.
- Another stop resulted in the deportation of 1 illegal person.
- 1 NHP Agency assist resulted in the seizure of 55 grams of methamphetamine, which led into search and arrest warrant requests.

The ICE Team is currently staffed with 3 officers and 1 Sergeant. Total work hours lost was 332.9, or 48.1% of the 692 total staff hours. Our officers attended 95 hours of training, used 18.25 hours of comp leave, 45 hours of annual leave and 16 hours of sick leave. The remaining lost time was spent with non-interdiction activities, such as assisting P & P with Operation Clean Sweep, PSTO training and meetings. We accrued 5.58 hours of comp time and 26.85 hours of overtime, 15 hours of which is covered by our CJA grant.

The allied agencies' staff commitments were short in March, but the April schedule already shows a substantial planned increase. K9's are still in high demand. More equipment is arriving with only a few of the more crucial items still pending.

Our P & P officer is midway through PSTO training. Upon completion of his PSTO program, we can expect an additional unit on the road full time.

AIR OPERATIONS

The Northern Command aircraft flew a total of 62.5 hours during March. Of the total, 43 hours, or 68% of the total flight time was spent on airborne speed enforcement activities. Six personnel transports were conducted during the month; OPR investigators were flown to Las Vegas for interviews and then returned several days later. The Colonel and Director were flown to Las Vegas and back for the Medal of Valor presentations to Troopers Houston and Diaz. These transports accounted for 26% of the flight time. 3.3 flight hours were spent on pilot training.

NDOT did not use the plane in March.

The plane was out of service for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance Friday the 23rd through Thursday the 29th. It was discovered during a 50-hour service that compression in the #5 cylinder was low due to a damaged exhaust valve. The cylinder was removed and overhauled.

15 Speed enforcement missions were scheduled for the month. 11 were flown. One mission was cancelled for the Chief's transport to Las Vegas, one for family sick leave and two for the cylinder overhaul.

A total of 579 enforcement actions were taken. The breakdown is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Speed: | 485 |
| Hazardous Moving: | 17 |
| Non-Hazardous: | 63 |
| Seat Belt: | 14 |

There were 8 motorist assists.

The high speed for the month was a gold Mitsubishi at Wadsworth on the 8th at 106 mph.

Compared to March of last year, total activity was up 83% and total flight time was up 46%.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

| ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES | Mar 2007 | Mar 2006 | % Change | Feb 07 | % Change |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| FRONT OFFICE | | | | | |
| Accident Reports Processed | 373 | 470 | -20.64% | 267 | +39.70% |
| Arrest Reports Processed | 230 | 216 | +648% | 218 | +5.50% |
| Incident / Officer Reports Processed | 19 | 17 | +11.76% | 21 | -9.52% |
| Office Accident Reports Taken | 10 | 25 | -60.00% | 18 | -44.44% |
| Citations Processed | 2834 | 2638 | +7.43% | 3857 | -26.52% |
| COURT / WARRANT | | | | | |
| Warrants Received | 754 | 517 | 45.84% | 539 | 39.89% |
| Warrants Entered: | 496 | 355 | 39.72% | 297 | 67.00% |
| Warrants Pack/Double Check: | 1251 | unk | | 919 | 36.13% |
| Warrants Cleared | 922 | 556 | 65.83% | 577 | 59.79% |
| Warrants Validated | 1785 | 179 | 897.21% | 1485 | 20.20% |
| Warrants Updated or Purged | 518 | unk | | 106 | 388.68% |
| TOTAL | 5726 | 1607 | 256.32% | 3923 | 45.96% |
| COMMUNICATION CENTER | | | | | |
| Radio Transmissions | 117570 | 111418 | 5.52% | 115027 | 2.21% |
| CAD incidents | 15363 | 14711 | 4.43% | 14930 | 2.90% |

FRONT OFFICE

One Administrative Assistant II position was vacant in the Records Section for almost the entire month. A new person reported on the 26th and is in training. Both clerks involved with the Court Services section are still being heavily utilized for front office coverage due to the vacancy. As well, these 2 clerks have performed 75 court call-offs. They were also responsible for 22 court runs, processing 242 subpoenas, processing 385 citations for court, and 255 pieces of transport and miscellaneous court paperwork. Overtime utilized by the records section continues to be for backlog reduction and archiving the 2001 DUI and fatal accident reports.

The film clerk processed 229 Veripic cases this period; as well as 27 digital photo requests and 0-35mm requests. She is still conducting Storekeeping duties and back-up to the Evidence Custodian.

Sick leave increased this period by 3%, with compensatory leave increasing due to the cold and flu season. Annual leave increased by 109%. Paid overtime decreased by 15%. Compensatory time earned increased by 18% despite the front office changes and vacancy. Paid overtime and compensatory time needs to continue for performing tasks optimally due to the vacant AAI position.

Office reports taken decreased to 10 for the month. During this period, accident reports taken by troopers increased by 40%. Arrest reports increased by 6%. Incident reports taken by troopers have decreased by 10%. Citations issued and processed decreased by 27%.

COURT WARRANTS

The vacant AAI position will be filled at the end of April. Warrant statistics continue to climb. We have increased significantly in all areas. With the recording of the true number of warrants validated, a more accurate picture of the workload can be seen.

A project has been designed to identify active warrants on deceased persons. This information is being sent to the courts and is partly responsible for the significant increase in cleared and purged warrants.

Another program is to identify warrants older than 10 years. This information has been collected and sent to the courts, causing them to request purging or removal of the records. A total of 1,016 warrants being held by this command for areas within other command jurisdictions were removed and sent to the appropriate command center.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center will be fully staffed as of April 9. With 4 trainees at the same time, the entire staff of the Center is involved in training, evaluation, and remediation (when necessary) of new employees in addition to their other regular dispatching duties.

Total work hours lost decreased by 9.36% since last month, primarily due to a decrease in annual leave taken. It increased by 28.93% from the previous year, because of an increase in sick leave.

Paid overtime decreased by 14.04% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole decreased by 1.13% when compared to the same period last year and decreased by 14.23% when compared to last month.

The increases over last year can be attributed to a lack of personnel and a significant increase in sick leave. During this month, three PSDs were hospitalized, rendering one on sick leave for half the month. There is a high probability that this will happen to 2 more PSDs before the mid-year point.

Radio transmissions increased by 5.52% over this period last year and increased 2.21% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 4.43% over last year and 2.90% since last month. These fluctuations appear to be caused by increased traffic calls, due to increased population and the number of units in the field. This increase has been consistent and reflects a need to increase our staffing to accommodate the increase in population of our Command area. The Truckee Meadows continues to grow in size and population. In addition, Lyon County remains a fast growing county, with the population of Fernley more than doubling in the last 5 years.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Throughout the entire month, extra emphasis was placed on speed enforcement. 18 law enforcement agencies from around the state participated in a "Joining Forces" grant sponsored by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety. NHP Northern Command received enough grant funds to allow 9 troopers to work an overtime shift to target those drivers who exceeded the posted speed limits. Because of our efforts here in northern Nevada, 115 speeding citations were issued along with a number of other citations that averaged just over 19 tickets written by each participating trooper. A number of interviews and articles were produced during the month creating a sense of awareness for our efforts to reduce speed on our highways.

Another event during the month that generated substantial media coverage was a community awareness meeting held at the Pleasant Valley Elementary School. Local residents with concerns about traffic issues in their area met with senior leadership from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Washoe County, and the Department of Public Safety. First Lady Dawn Gibbons shared supporting comments that were followed with support from DPS Director Phil Galeoto, Colonel Chris Perry, and Northern Command Deputy Chief, Major Tony Almaraz, concerning our traffic enforcement efforts. Area residents in attendance had the opportunity to have their questions heard and answered concerning current and future highway operations through Pleasant Valley.

Other events throughout the month included several presentations delivered to area driver's education classes as well as a traffic safety presentation delivered to a number of employees from the Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration who convened in Reno for a safety conference.

In other news, personnel from NHP and our sister division, Parole and Probation, had the opportunity to be represented at two recruitment career fairs; one in Sacramento and the other in Seattle. Both events were held at an area university with a special emphasis on gearing future graduates an opportunity to seek a career in law enforcement. The overall feedback from both events was very positive.

Trooper Michael Stapledon of the Northern Command was officially presented the Gold Medal of Valor by Colonel Chris Perry for his quick actions and life saving efforts performed on duty in June, 2006, where he was assigned as a trooper in the Las Vegas area. Trooper Stapledon's quick assessment of a swiftly moving volatile situation prevented the injury and loss of life of personnel at a mine near Overton.

We are still continuing to provide live traffic reports to the citizens of northern Nevada each weekday morning that can be seen on KOLO News Channel 8 and heard on 94.5 FM radio.

This office is also awaiting the arrival of a new piece of equipment, "the seatbelt convincer trailer," which will be used to instruct our area youth and adults about the importance of seatbelt usage. We will have more information about this educational device, including a photo, in next month's report.

Remember, safety begins with each one of us so do your part by buckling up every trip, every time.

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Commercial and SIRT

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Carson City/Minden/Lake Tahoe